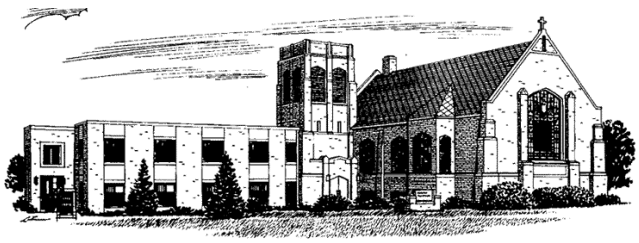


The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary
Krista Blaylock, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

*Summers (**Beginning Memorial Day weekend**):*
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

August 2016

Bangladesh, Bolivia, Chile. These are countries that we rarely pray for, by name. However, we will do just that on Sunday, August 21, in a special sung prayer, entitled "For the Healing of the Nations." With a leader singing the names of the countries, the congregation sings in response "peace be yours." Latvia and Poland, "peace be yours." Norway and Sweden, "peace be yours."

In this year of reading from Luke's Gospel, we hear many healing stories. August 21 is no different, when we hear the account of Jesus restoring a woman to health. As a congregation, we have become accustomed to healing rites, when the "*church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith"* (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 276). And so we will experience a healing rite and we will pray for the healing of the nations, knowing the reality of division, varying economies, health conditions, and the threat, as well as the actuality of violence.

As our liturgy states, *"In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.* (ELW, p. 276)

United States and Cuba, "peace be yours. For the healing of the nations, we pray to you O God"

Pastor Joan

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers:
Arla Huelsberg and Marilyn Klann are at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph;
Ev Maki is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows;
Dorris Doutt is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman.

Serving in the military:
Andy Wedde – **California**

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in August 2016

Aug. 1 – Bradley Gorman
3 - Tim Standen
4 – Richard Bell
Linda Huff
5 - Brian Hohman
Emma Dipert
7 - Ed Standen
9 – Benjamin Baumgartner
Mary Smart
14 - Maggie Hammer
15 – David Bailey
16 - Tedd Gorman
22 - Irma Gorman
23 – Andrew Huff
24 –Rebecca (Fortenbacher) Sherry
Paula Risetter
27 - Pamela Olson
Elizabeth Schmuhl
28 - Evelyn Maki

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members In August 2016

Aug. 1 – Matthew and Laurel Gacek
3 - David and Dana Riley
6 - Jerry and Ruth Stelling
7 – Brad and Marilyn Frey
Victor and Nicole Coar
8 - Richard and Rosemary Bell
Erik and Brittany (Ondraka) Hansen
14 - Donald and Eloise Moely
15 – John and T. J. Koehler
20 – David and Shelly Stankiewicz
22 - Mike and Kristen (Henderson) Harper
24 – Jack and Cheryl Houser

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday Aug. 7 –
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Sunday Aug. 14 –
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Luke 12:49-56

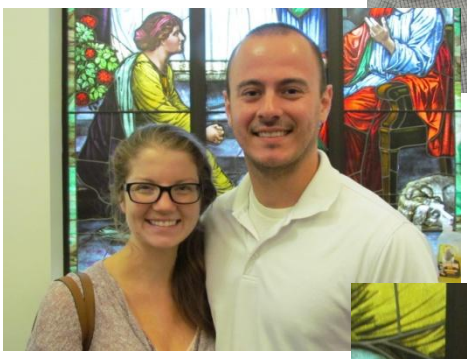
Sunday Aug. 21 –
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Sunday Aug. 28 –
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Welcome
We welcome new members Dorothy Bennett, Bob and Gloria Hopkins, Kyle and Claire Carter, and Matthew Taylor.

Dorothy

Bob and Gloria



Claire and Kyle

Matt

Nursery Help Needed
We are welcoming more help for the nursery. We need a volunteer for each service so that there are 2 persons in the nursery at all times. Danielle Hohman has been hired as our paid child care provider. If you can help, please sign up at church or let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness.

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

SUMMER BEACH WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Wednesday, August 10, will be our last time this summer to gather at Lion's Park Beach for a picnic supper at 6, followed by an informal time of worship at 7. The church will provide hot dogs, brats, condiments, chips, and lemonade. Others are invited to bring a dish to share. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP
The Ephesus group will meet next on September 18 (third Sunday of the month, which is what we try to shoot for). It will be at the Pater's home at 4:30, and we'll do Part III of the PBS series about early Christianity, "From Jesus to Christ." Watch for more details or contact Mary Kynast.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast
Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will meet August 6th at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

Tuesday Mornings at the Beach
Begin your day with prayer and Bible study at the beach this summer! We gather on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 at Lions Park Beach in Saint Joseph. Plan to get your free parking pass (as a St Joseph resident) at City Hall, take a brief walk after parking down Lions Park Drive, arrange to car pool from the church, or pay the $5 daily parking fee. A season pass for $40 is also available. Questions? Contact **Pastor.**

Saron Men's Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Men's Bible Study is continuing to meet every Tuesday through the summer. We still meet at 6:00pm for Bible Study and then at 7:00pm, those who choose go out for some food and beverage. On nice days, we'll meet outside at the front of the church and on chilly or wet days, we'll meet indoors. THANKS! For more information, contact Bob Kynast.

1ST SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

We will not meet during the summer months. We will get together again on Sunday, October 2nd. We have chosen an interesting line-up of books we hope will make for good discussions for the 2016-2017 season. For those of you who want to get an early start, here they are

October 2	My Salinger Year, by Joanna Rakoff
November 6	The Rent Collector, by Cameron Wright
December 4	Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter, by Kate Clifford Larson
February 12	A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman
March 5	I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, by Malala Yousafzai & Christina Lamb
April 2	The Vatican Princess: A Novel of Lucrezia Borgia, by C.W. Gortner
May 7	To be determined

Here's to a summer filled with good reading bringing pleasure and relaxation your way.

"Books may well be the only true magic."
(Alice Hoffman, author)

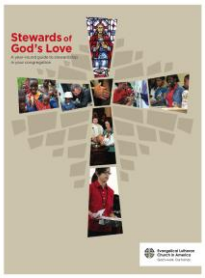
Vacation Bible School

Monday – Thursday, August 1-4 from 6:30-8:30 pm
KDG – 5th grade
Theme: *From the Ground to the Table – Growing and Sharing*
Join us! Registration forms are available at church.

SUMMER YOUTH GROUP

The "Glow Youth Group" for our young people ages 4 – 5th grades, will meet Tuesdays, from 6-7:30 pm through August 23, with the exceptions of August 2 (VBS) and August 16 (Youth Fair). Each week youth and leaders have connected faith with fun. There have been Bible stories integrated with drawing, music and motion, camping and much more! Thanks to all who have helped lead these fun-filled evenings. Contact Pastor, Jack Houser, Kristen Harper, or Amanda Bradley or sign up at church if you would like to lead August 23.

Support



STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE

"Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ELW p75

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Dave Bradley or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Dave Bradley or Denise Cook.

Saron Preservation Fund

At the Church annual meeting in January, we approved a special addition to the budget to do exterior repairs around the old front entrance as part of a long term exterior maintenance project. We were fortunate that Pearson Construction was able to do the work in late spring, but we have not yet received all the pledges to the Building Fund / Preservation Fund needed to pay for it. Consequently, we had to pay the Pearson bill out of our dwindling cash reserve. If you have not yet made your Preservation Fund contribution yet, please make it as soon as possible so that we can reimburse the cash reserve.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

School Supplies

Saron will be collecting SCHOOL SUPPLIES for several Benton Harbor Elementary teachers. We have done this for several years and the teachers are very appreciative of Saron's kindness for them and their students. The teachers have suggested some basic supplies for their classrooms. Here is a list of some of their needs: pencils, crayons, hand sanitizer, copy paper, boxes of tissues, spiral notebooks, glue sticks, and dry erase markers. We will be collecting the school supplies through mid-September, a basket is located in the narthex.

Thank you for helping the students to have a successful year of learning. Any questions, just give me a call, Jan Stevens@ 429-2044

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

"God's Work.Our Hands." Yes, that is what we do on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Soup Kitchen! From making coleslaw, preparing ham, opening cans of fruit, making rice and gravy, pouring milk and of course serving our meal with a smile and a "Have a Good Day" it takes many HANDS to serve 148 people, but what a great way to say WE CARE ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORS. Our June helpers were: Marilyn Frey, Jim Oleson, Wendy King, Sue Bailey, Betty Ross, Ruth Ball, Sally Schmuhl, Krin Jurgensen, Sandy Seymour, Coanne Hohman, and Frieda Williams.

Want to get involved? Contact Jan Stevens@ 429-2044

LARGE CANS of fruit are always needed. You can bring you donation to the church. Thank you, Jan Stevens 429-2044.

Michigan Blood Drive -

Saron's June Blood Drive was very successful. 15 pints of blood were given, helping to save 45 lives! Thank you to all who gave, attempted to give, or provided refreshments. Our next Blood Drive will be held in OCTOBER - mark your calendars and consider being a FIRST TIME DONOR!

Thank you , Keith Stevens and Marilyn Lucy

"God's Work .Our Hands." Sunday

"God's Work .Our Hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. We will celebrate on Sunday, September 11, which is also the 15th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

In honor of our first responders Saron will be collecting items that are needed by the Berrien County Victim Service Unit. Please consider donating some of the following items: little toys trucks or small toys for boys, children's 5x7 activity pads, coloring books, small boxes of colored pencils, small packages of wet wipes (not large containers), thin rain ponchos (cost about $1.00), small hand sanitizer bottles, small flashlights (5 inches or less), flashlight batteries, insect repellent wipes. These will be collected through September 11.

On September 11, after the 11:00 service , we will be traveling to several local retirement centers to sing a variety of well known uplifting and /or patriotic songs. Marcus Roll will be leading us. All singers or non singers :) are welcome! Also, on this day our Sunday School students will be doing an activity that will be given to our St. Joseph police/fire department officers.

God's Blessing to all. See Pastor or Jan Stevens with any questions. Thank you!

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will not meet in August. Meetings will resume in September.

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the church. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saves the church a considerable amount of money. Work includes folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday service, minor maintenance and some light cleaning/vacuuming. We really need some additional helpers, both men and women. It is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. Please consider helping and if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

Lawn mowers needed for the summer. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers to mow the yards instead of hiring that work out saved the church an estimated **$1,100.00** in expenses last year. Please sign up to help the church save money on the lawn mowing and keep our grounds looking good. There is a lawn mower at the church to use. The sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex and if you have any questions please see or notify Bill Oleson. Thanks! **Golden Hammers**

Council News

ENDOWMENT FUND

Contributions to the Endowment Fund can be made by cash, check, or securities in the same way as weekly offerings. You are also encouraged to remember the Endowment Fund in your estate planning. Earnings from the Endowment Fund have provided over $44,000 in support of Saron's mission. The Endowment Committee is always happy to answer your questions.

ENDOWMENT FUND THANK YOU

Dear Rev. Oleson,
Would you please extend our appreciation to the parishioners of Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Endowment committee for their donations of $350.00 to St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church's Food Pantry. We appreciate this gift and your generosity will assist us in the continuation of our mission of feeding people in our community. I know many of our clients enjoy the selection of the different products we are able to purchase for them.

If you or any of the worshipers of Saron would like to see the pantry in action, please visit us on either the second or fourth Monday of every month from 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M

We have been serving the community for the past ten years and have seen our clientele grow; it is heartwarming to be able to help those in need during these trying times.

Again, thank you for your support.
God's blessings to you,
Gail L. Wells
Food Pantry Coordinator St. A's

Saron's Council Members – 2016

Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – President
Matt Bradley (*419.306.5780)* – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Secretary
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Austin Kamala – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Frieda Williams (556-7269) – Support*
Matt Bradley (*419.306.5780)* - Support*
Tyler Cook (*269-930-2810*)– Hospitality*
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Vison Statements:

Facilities

Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming

Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship

Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach

Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth

Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning

Center our lives through life-long learning

Attendance Record	
06/26/2016	*81*
07/03/2016	*88*
07/10/2015	*66*
07/17/2016	*100*
07/24/2016	*85*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR AUGUST 2016

AUG. 7 **9:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Tyler Cook
Reader/Com. Assist : Judi Huff
Acolyte: Molly Becker
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Nursery: Danielle Hohman and Marilyn Lucy
Building Closing: Ken Ark

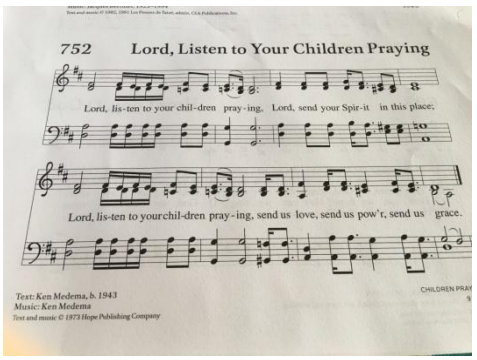
AUG. 14 **9:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Dennis Lundgren
Reader/Intinction: Jim Manore
Acolytes: Carter Hohman and Mia Bradley
Ushers: Eric and Deborah Standen
Nursery: Danielle Hohman and Mary Kynast
Building Closing: Dennis and Colleen Lundgren

AUG. 21 **9:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Marilyn Frey
Reader/Com. Assist: Darlene Kiessel
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Acolyte: Grant Gacek
Nursery: Danielle Hohman and Janet Oleson
Building Clossing: Bob and Mary Kynast

AUG. 28 **9:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Sue Rood
Reader/Intinction: Dan Fortenbacher
Ushers: dave and Kathie Bradley
Acolytes: Meredith Gacek and Mia Bradley
Nursery: Danielle Hohman and Deb Standen
Building Closing: Dan Gustafson

Thank you for volunteering. If you are unable to fulfill an assignment, please find a replacement and call the church office to notify us of the change. Thank you.

GOD


752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Lord, send your Spir-it in this place.
Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.
Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943
Music: Ken Medema
Text and music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

AUGUST 2016

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

September 11, 2016 will be the ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday.
Long Sleeve T Shirts - $16.00
Short Sleeve T Shirts - $8.00
Hoodie Sweatshirt - $21.00
Ultimate Sweatshirt (without a hood) - $21.00

2XL - add $2.00 3XL - add $3.00
Sign up forms to order will be in the church narthex.
Any questions, contact Jan Stevens - thank you
ORDERS DUE AUGUST 7TH

SYNOD NEWS
If you would like to learn more about our synod, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, or read synod news, check out the synod website at www.mittensynod.org.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
Check out *www.elca.org* for news of our churchwide organization.

You can also find stories about life in the ELCA on *http://www.elca.org/Living-Lutheran* where there are stories, blogs, photos, and much more.

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly Holy Communion and Children's Sermon	1 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School Starts	2 8:30 a.m. Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Saron's Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. VBS	3 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	4 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School Ends	5	6 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast
7 9:30 a.m. Worship Last day to order "God's Work. Our Hands."t-shirt or sweatshirt!!	8 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 9:00 a.m. Newsletter Articles Due	9 8:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m.Youth Activities 7:00 p.m. Support Com.	10 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Picnic at Lions Park with 7:00 p.m.Worship	11	12	13
14 9:30 a.m. Worship	15 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Saron Church Council Meeting	16 8:30 a.m. Bible Study at Lions Park 3:30 pm Vasa Meets 6:00 p.m. Saron's Men's Bible Study NO Youth Activities	17 9:30am Golden Hammers	18	19	20
21 9:30 a.m. Worship	22 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	23 8:30 a.m. Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Saron's Men's Bible Study 6:00pmYouth Activities	24 9:30am Golden Hammers	25 9:30 a.m. Soup Kitchen	26	27
28 9:30 a.m. Worship	29 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	30 8:30 a.m. Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Saron's Men's Bible Study	31 9:30am Golden Hammers			